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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 2-6 and CANCELS claim 1.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7-19 are allowed, and that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended allowable claim 3 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 1, and has amended claims 2 and 4-6 to depend upon claim 3.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagatsuka et al. (JP 2000-151337) or Taguchi et al. (EP 0 80 270) in view of Bauer et al. (WO 00/25423). And claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakazawa et al. (JP 11-97966) or Kawakatsu et al. (U.S. 5,568,002) in view of Bauer et al.

Applicant has canceled claim 1, and, as noted above, has amended allowable claim 3 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 1, and has amended claims 2 and 4-6 to depend upon claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 2 and 4-6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6 are allowable. Claims 7-19 have been allowed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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